**NOUNS**

**1. KINDS OF NOUNS**

There are four kinds of nouns in English:

* Common nouns: dog, man, table.
* Proper nouns: France, Mrs. Smith, Tom.
* Abstract nouns: beauty, courage, fear, joy.
* Collective nouns: Crowd, group, team.

**2. GENDER**

There are two genders in English: masculine and feminine, however we can also find some words which are neuter.

*Masculine*: men ,boys and male animals. The pronouns used are *he* and *they*.

*Feminine* : women , girls and female animals. The pronouns used are *she* and they.

*Neuter*: inanimate things, animals whose sex is unknown and sometimes babies whose sex is unknown. The pronouns used are *it* and *they*.

*Exceptions* : Countries and vehicles such as ships and cars when regarded with affection or respect are sometimes considered feminine instead of neuter.

e.g. A: How is your new car ?

B: *She* is running beautifully

Algeria lost many of *her* bravest men in the war of independence.

**2.1. Masculine / Feminine Nouns Denoting People**

**Different Forms**

Male Female Male Female

Gentleman Lady

Boy Girl Husband Wife

Bachelor Spinster Nephew Niece

Bridegroom Bride Widower Widow

Father Mother King Queen

Duke Duchess Lord Lady

Prince Princess

Heir Heiress

**Same form**

The following words can carry both male and female meanings:

baby, child, cousin, infant, parent, relation, relative, spouse, teenager.

**2.2. Masculine/Feminine Nouns Indicating Occupation**

The majority of nouns indicating occupation have the same form.

e.g. artist, cook, dancer , driver etc.

**Different forms**

Male Female Male Female

Actor Actress Manager Manageress

Conductor Conductress Steward Stewardess

Salesman Saleswoman Waiter Waitress

Host Hostess policeman policewomen

For some words which carry the suffix *man/ woman, person* can be used instead.

e.g. salesperson

**2.3. Masculine/ Feminine Nouns Denoting Animals Different forms**

Male Female Male Female

Bull Cow Gander Goose

Cock Hen Lion Lioness

Dog Bitch Ram Ewe

Duck Drake Stag Doe

The majority of the other animals have the same form for both genders.

**3. PLURALS**

The plural of a noun is usually made by adding ‘s’ to the singular.

e.g. day days

¤ ‘S’ is pronounced /s/ after /p/, /k/, /f/ an /t/ sounds otherwise it is pronounced /z/.

When “s” is placed after *ce , ge ,se* ,or *ze* an extra syllable /iz/ is added to the plural of the spoken word .

e.g. age ages

place places

¤ Nouns ending in *o ,ch ,sh ,ss* and *x* form their plural by adding ‘*es*’ and pronounced /iz/ at the end except with *o,* it is pronounced /-z/.

e.g. tomato tomatoes

church churches

But words of foreign origin or abbreviated words ending in ‘*o*’ add ‘*s*’ only.

e.g. kimono kimonos

photo photos

kilo kilos

¤ Nouns ending in ‘*y*’ following a consonant form their plural by dropping the ‘*y*’ and adding ‘*ies*’.

e.g. baby babies lady ladies

But when the ‘*y’* is preceded by a vowel, the plural noun takes an ‘s’ at the end.

e.g. boy boys donkey donkeys

¤ The following nouns ending in ‘f’ or ‘fe’ replace the ‘f’ or ‘fe’ by ‘ves’ in plural: calf, half, knife, leaf, life, self, sheaf, thief, wife, loaf, wolf, shelf, elf.

e.g. wife wives wolf wolves

The nouns *dwarf*, *hoof, scarf and wharf* take either ‘*s*’ or ‘*ves*’ in the plural.

e.g. hoofs or hooves scarfs or scarves

The remaining words ending in ‘*f*’ or ‘*fe*’ add *‘s’* in the ordinary way.

e.g. cliff cliffs safe safes

¤ A few nouns form their plural by a vowel change or have an irregular form.

e.g. foot feet mouse mice

man men loose lice

tooth teeth goose geese

child children ox oxen

¤ Names of certain creatures, such as *fish*, do not change in the plural. In fact, *fishes* is uncommon.

e.g. carp, pike, salmon, trout, cod, plaice, squid, turbot, deer, sheep

But if used in a plural sense these words would take a plural verb.

¤ A few words do not change whether in singular or plural.

e.g. aircraft, craft, quid (£1), counsel ( barrister working in court).

¤ Collective nouns, crew, family, team etc. can take a singular or plural verb: singular if we consider the word to mean a single group or unit,

e.g. Our team is the best.

or plural if we use the collective noun to mean a number of individuals.

e.g. Our team are wearing their new jerseys.

¤ Certain words are always plural and take a plural verb. e.g. clothes - police

Are also plural garments consisting of two parts e.g. breeches ,pants ,pyjamas.

and tools and instruments consisting of two parts e.g. binoculars, pliers, scissors, glasses etc.

¤ A number of words ending in ‘*ics*’, such as acoustics, ethics, athletics, hysterics, mathematics, which are plural in form, normally take a plural verb.

e.g. His mathematics are weak .

But names of sciences can sometimes be considered singular.

e.g. Mathematics is an exact science.

¤ Words plural in form but singular in meaning e.g. No news is good news.

Some diseases such as: mumps, rickets, shingles.

Some games such as: draughts, bowls, dominos, billiards, and darts.

¤ Some words which retain their original Greek or Latin forms make their plurals according to the rules of Greek and Latin.

e.g. crisis crises

phenomenon phenomena

oasis oases

erratum errata

radius radii

terminus termini

But some other words follow the English rules:

e.g. dogma dogmas

gymnasium gymnasiums

Sometimes there are two plural forms for the same singular noun with different meanings.

e.g. appendix appendices or appendixes (medical term)

appendix appendices (addition (s) to books)

index indexes (in books)

index indices (in maths)

¤ In compound nouns, normally, the last word is made plural.

e.g. travel-agents

But where *man/ woman* is prefixed both parts are made plural.

e.g. men-divers, women-drivers

menservants, gentlemen-farmers

The first word is made plural with compounds formed of: *nouns (verb +er)+ adverbs*.

e.g. hangers-on

passers-by

runners-up

**4. UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS**

**4.1. Names of substances**

bread cream gold paper tea

beer wood ice sand water

cloth dust jam soap wine

coffee glass oil stone

**4.2. Abstract nouns**

advice death information

beauty experience knowledge

courage fear relief

**4.3. Also considered uncountable in English**

Baggage damage luggage weather

Camping furniture parking shopping

**4.4. Some properties and uses of uncountable nouns**

¤ Uncountable nouns are always singular and are not used with a/an. These nouns are often preceded by *some, any, no, a little* etc. or by nouns such as *a bit of, a piece of, a slice of* etc.

e.g. a bit of news a grain of sand a pot of jam

a drop of oil a pane of glass a sheet of paper

¤ Many of the nouns in the above group can be used in a particular sense and are then countable.

e.g. Her *hair* is black. (uncountable)

Whenever she finds a grey *hair* she pulls it out. (countable)

We drink coffee/ tea. (uncountable)

But we can ask for *a (cup of) coffee / a tea / two coffees*

etc.(countable)

We can walk in wood. (uncountable)

Or we can walk in a wood /woods. (countable)

¤ Some abstract nouns can be used in a particular sense with a/an.

e.g. a help, a relief, a knowledge of,

a horror / dislike /hatred /love of .

a mercy /pity /shame / wonder, used with ‘that’

a fear /fears

e.g. He had a good knowledge of mathematics.

He had a love of music.

He had a hatred of violence.

It’s a pity / a shame you were not here .

There is a fear / there are fears that he has been murdered.

**5. CASES AND FUNCTIONS OF NOUNS**

There are four cases of nouns in English: possessive, nominative,

accusative and dative according to the function of nouns in a sentence. It should be pointed out that except for the possessive case, English nouns have no case endings.

**5.1. Nominative case**

A noun is in the nominative case when it is:

the subject of a sentence

e.g. *Ali* drove the car.

the complement of a linking verb (refer to sentence elements 2.5)

e.g. It is *Ali*

**5.2. Accusative case**

A noun is in the accusative case when it is: The direct object of a verb

e.g. I saw *Ali*

Or follows a preposition e.g. I spoke to *Ali*

**5.3. Dative case**

A noun is in the dative case when it stands for ‘to + noun’ or ‘for + noun’, it is, therefore, the indirect object of a verb.

e.g. I gave *Ali* a book.

**5.4. Possessive Case ( the genitive)**

**5.4.1. Case Endings for the Possessive**

*¤* ***’ S*** is used with singular nouns and plural nouns not ending in ‘s’.

e.g. Ali’s book. The boy’s room

The man’s hat. The men’s hats.

¤ A simple apostrophe ( **’** ) is used with plural nouns ending in ‘s’ and proper names ending in ‘s’.

e.g. The girls’ school.

This is Anas’ book.

¤ Compounds are generally treated as one word. e.g. My mother –in- law’s house.

**5.4.2. Use of the Possessive Case**

¤ When the possessor is a person or animal, possession is normally indicated by putting the possessor in the possessive case, not by using the preposition ‘*of*’’.

e.g. The cat’s bowl. not ~~the bowl of the cat~~.

but when the possessor noun is immediately followed by a phrase or a

clause the ‘*of’* construction is used.

e.g. Novels are a waste of time, was *the opinion of my friend* who

had never read a novel in his life .

¤ When the possessor is a thing , *‘of’* is normally used. e.g. The walls of the room.

The legs of the table .

but with many well-known combinations it is usual to put the two nouns together using the first noun as a sort of adjective. This is often done to indicate the position of something.

e.g. The hall door.

The dining room table.

Similarly with some names of towns, districts and places. e.g. London Cathedral.

Or when there is a connection with time.

e.g. summer holiday.

autumn colours.

Or to indicate the use of clothes, equipments etc.

e.g. tennis shoes, coffee cup, tea pot, world cup.

And with kinds of stories

e.g. crime stories, detective stories, adventure stories.

¤ The possessive form is used with expressions of time such as: second, minute, hour, day, night, week, month, year, etc.

e.g. a day’s work

a week’s holiday

¤ The nouns *pound* and *money* preceded by a possessive adjective can be used in the possessive case when they are followed by the word ‘worth’.

e.g. To get your money’s worth.